

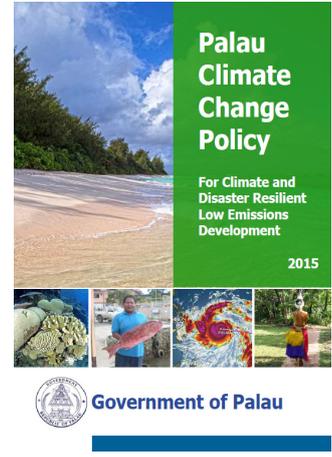


European Union



SPC  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community

## Lessons learnt from the Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project



*Implementing tangible on-the-ground activities supported by mainstreaming helps countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change.*

### Project approach to implement specific on-the-ground climate change adaptation activities with mainstreaming and targeted training helps countries tackle the adverse effects of climate change

- Having countries select the areas of national focus ensures that the project addresses the real needs of the countries.
- Communities want to see some tangible outcomes.
- A sector strengthening approach builds on existing institutional structures, enhances existing sectoral and specialist capacity, and provides the opportunity for cross sectoral interaction and collaboration since climate change is a cross-cutting issue.

### Technical assistance helps to build the capacity of countries to address climate change challenges

- Conducting and communicating the results of sound feasibility and design engineering studies for water and coastal infrastructure projects informs project selection, decision making, national environmental assessment requirements and provides information to help explain to communities about proposed measures.
- Preparation of climate change adaptation policies and plans in a systematic and collaborative manner helps increase collaboration among national agencies and civil society.
- Targeted training for special groups such as women and the elderly enhances their capacity and provides tangible benefits.
- Conducting national lessons learnt workshops engages stakeholders in assessment and future project planning.
- South-south cooperation such as trainings and attachments between countries, is very useful for sharing information and experiences.

### Partnerships provide for improving development effectiveness at the national and regional levels

- Partnerships are based on mutual trust; require transparency and accountability; involve considerable communication and human interaction; and are time-consuming.
- Partnership arrangements can provide more effective delivery of project activities at the national level.

- Responsibilities of each partner have to be clearly defined, balanced and with sufficient flexibility to account for changing conditions.
- Partnerships can contribute to sustainability of project activities.
- Partners have to be prepared to take tough decisions when required.

### Outer islands need special attention

- Outer islands require special attention because their communities' needs are often greater than those on main islands.
- Outer islands face serious transportation and logistical constraints resulting in higher costs. These need to be factored into project planning and include shipping delays, challenging port facilities, lengthy travel time and long recovery times after natural disasters.
- People living on outer islands are not only recipients. Interaction between a main island and outer islands is a two-way process.
- Regular communication with stakeholders on outer islands, using all available tools e.g. walkie-talkie, VHF radio, and mobile phones, is vital.
- Outer islanders have local and traditional knowledge that can be combined with scientific knowledge to build resilience.

### New project indicators need to be developed, especially for outer islands

- Dollars per capita as an indicator for an outer island project is not always appropriate as there are special factors to consider such as market forces, sources of income and population dynamics.
- Indicators for outer island projects need to be specially designed to:
  - o include an in-depth understanding of how outer islands work, particularly that economies are largely subsistence-based and that on average less than 10% of the population are income earners;
  - o understand that population demographics in outer islands are often very different to the main island;
  - o recognise that outer island residents also contribute significant non-monetary input to projects;
  - o acknowledge that everyone has the right to certain basic human needs such as clean drinking water.



Targeted training and knowledge management contributes to sustainability.

## Transferring project funds directly to national budgets builds increased national ownership of project activities; enhances collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and line agencies; allows for improved accountability and transparency; and creates employment for local staff

- Governments need to be ready to receive donor support and have appropriate structures in place for project implementation, management and fund disbursement.
- The Ministry of Finance should be the sole recipient of donor funds.
- Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Finance has to be ongoing and line ministries need to liaise closely with Ministries of Finance throughout project implementation and to sensitise them about project timelines and implementation schedules.
- Strengthen the skills of line ministries in national procurement procedures.
- Factor currency fluctuations into project design at the beginning of the project and explore options such as working with national commercial banks to peg the exchange rate at the beginning of a project.

## The process of accessing new forms of climate finance can strengthen national systems, although the process is very complicated

- Strengthening national systems for accessing new forms of climate finance builds country capacity and promotes development effectiveness.
- Applying to become a national implementing entity under the Adaptation Fund is a long process, resource-intensive and coordination is critical. The process results in strengthening national systems.
- Partners should strive to align to national systems where such systems are well-established and effective, provided partner criteria for sound fiduciary management are met.
- Countries need to have appropriate planning priorities in place e.g. Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management as it leads to a more effective and efficient project implementation.
- Regional organisations can provide assistance to countries to access new forms of climate finance, however, the process has to be country-owned.

## Training in proposal preparation using the logical framework approach strengthens national capacity to prepare project proposals for funding

- Involving government, NGOs, private sector representatives, community leaders and members, youth and women in the training is vital. Even if all groups are not involved in the actual proposal writing they can contribute to the project design through the consultative process and thereby take ownership of projects.
- Project proposals using the logical framework approach are thorough and uniform.
- The logical framework approach can be used in post-disaster recovery planning.

## Changing community perceptions and attitudes is a lengthy process requiring specialist skills

- The goal is to build the resilience of communities rather than increasing their reliance on projects.
- Ensure education and awareness programmes are ongoing, relevant and innovative and are in place at the commencement of the project.
- Customise awareness activities for the target audience and, in particular, translate materials into the local language.
- Combining awareness activities with actions through 'learning by doing' is an effective method, as is using local champions, which also provides for continuation of awareness activities after the project ends.
- Ensure awareness specialists are knowledgeable about climate change, committed and have the skills to use a variety of approaches for different stakeholders.
- Raising community expectations requires having a reasonably high level of certainty about eventual delivery of project activities.

## Information sharing and knowledge management are important for the timely dissemination of project outputs and lessons learnt

- Using a diverse range of media is essential for information sharing e.g. television, social media, radio, established national days such as Earth Day, noticeboards, posters, cartoons and school competitions.
- Using tools such as databases to store relevant environmental and climate information contributes to effective knowledge management and future planning.
- The Pacific Climate Change Portal is a useful information and knowledge source for informing future project planning.